## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2001

The Honorable Jane Garvey Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration 800 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Garvey:

We are writing to urge you to designate Boston's Logan International Airport as a model for implementation of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has informed us that travel out of Logan has been disproportionately reduced by the tragedy of September 11 compared to other airports around the country. Specifically, we have been told that the number of daily departures out of Logan and daily seats on flights has dropped 28.8% from pre-September 11 levels (please see attached table). Boston's Logan Airport has had the worst percentage drop in flights and passenger traffic since 9-11, except for Reagan National Airport, which was closed for a significant amount of time because of its proximity to the White House, US Capitol, and the Pentagon. We believe that now is the time to seize the opportunities provided by the new congressional mandates in the Act, so that Logan airport becomes the *safest airport in the country by* Independence Day, July 4, 2002.

The Act states, "the Administrator shall establish pilot programs in no fewer than 20 airports to test and evaluate new and emerging technology for providing access control and other security protections for closed or secure areas of the airports." According to Massport and numerous press reports, Logan has already been at the forefront of the move to upgrade and test new security technologies, making it an even more obvious choice to implement the Aviation and Transportation Security Act in its entirety six months before the Act's deadline of December 2002. We want you to not only make Logan International Airport a part of this "pilot program", but we also encourage you to help Massachusetts exceed the federal guidelines for complete implementation for the Aviation Security Act, including, but not limited to:

- Order and purchase new baggage screening equipment first.
- Train and employ a federalized airport security force, first.
- Implement new biometric and other advanced technologies, <u>first</u>.
- Priority designation of Federal Sky Marshals program.

Logan Airport would be an ideal starting point for the FAA because no airport was hit as hard by the decision of a small band of global terrorists to exploit system-wide weaknesses in our national aviation security protocols. The safety of passenger planes is, therefore, understandably a dominant concern in the minds of the families, companies and employees of eastern Massachusetts when they consider whether to resume air travel. Using Logan as a model for the

country's new commitment to enhanced safety will provide the infusion of confidence needed to restore Massachusetts's service and export-driven economy. It will also serve as an important model and catalyst for other large regional airports.

Once again, we truly appreciate your time, consideration, and support on this important national security issue. We will be contacting your office to arrange a meeting on this matter shortly. In the interim, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about our request. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Cloved J. Markey

Edward M. Kennedy

John F. Kerry

John F. Kerry

John W. Olver

Martin Meehan

Michael Captano

Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch